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I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as First Class Mail, in an envelope addressed to: MS Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Dated: May 31, 2006

Signature: _____

(David C. Read)

Docket No.: 19036/41822
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Kaoru Nomichi et al.

Application No.: 10/575,687

Filed: April 13, 2006

For: Gas Seal Structure



Confirmation No.: Not Yet Assigned

Art Unit: Not Yet Assigned

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

FIRST PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

MS Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows:

Amendments to the Drawings begin on page 2 of this paper and include an attached replacement sheet.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 3 of this paper.

An **Appendix** including amended drawing figures is attached following page 3 of this paper.